

DISCUSSIONS

TRANS-ECOLOGY

Ecology as an issue should not be limited to the physical environment. Examination of the effects of global media on international and regional cultures is as important as the need to examine the effects of industrial technology on the quality of air, water, etc. Therefore, the notion and parameter of ecology should be expanded to include culture, politics, aesthetics, economy and other dynamics and systems.

Ecology must be understood not only within its given historical context, but also in relation to the reconfiguration of political and economic territories and boundaries, and the realignment of regional and centralized power. An analysis is required in posing some reasonable projections, which must be based on both quantitative data and qualitative information. The purpose of this process is to empower substructural and regional imperatives that are in danger of being subsumed by the larger and forthcoming European unity.

TRANS-TECHNOLOGY

From the miniaturization and multiplicity of machines, particularly microchips and other transformative and communicational instruments, the 'machine' is giving way to the new order of things and new category of effects by modeling their forms and operations from biological, organic and atomic structuring. Managing and conserving the society of machines and its ever expanding population is also an ecological issue, analogous and bounded to the



conservation of natural resources. Technology, in its thrust to speed up and to miniaturize previous models for harnessing energy and information, is presenting boundless possibilities to shape our world, and is on the verge of its own resolution as an indispensable tool or the means of immanent destruction. It should also be understood that relations among people or the prevalence of one socio-economic power over another is dictated and regulated by the interplay and dominance of some particular technological mode: new inventions have shaped political and economic fortunes.

An international media network and a multi-national flux of investments have 'globalized' the perception and operation of the world. This globalism is



diminishing the role of nationalism, generating intermixed multi-cultural cities and strengthening the resurgence of a different regionalism. Will such a new regionalism not be geographically based, but culturally and subculturally based? Can multi-cultural cities be also considered new regions?

TRANS-POLITICS

Whereas Western Europe has been searching for a historical consensus in its political and economic sphere of influence, its social and cultural variations in the European landscape, however, have not been fully addressed and are less adaptable to a universalized integration. Opposite to the fear of homogenization, globalism that undermines nationalism can also bring a more vibrant and independent regionalism. The international media can become the instrument to subvert official culture, making possible the release of self-initiated creative potential in regional life.

Thus the Forum focuses on the potentially catastrophic effects on regional entity by using one of the few remaining pristine environments of Europe, the island of Corsica, as a model. Here the natural wonders of sea and mountains, and the richness of architectural treasures thus far well preserved and overlaid with centuries of cultural and linguistic formations, can be very easily disintegrated and lost forever through a development of economic and tourist goals. The extrapolation of the analysis of this delicate environment of Corsica can also help to understand ecology in the greater context of Europe. This inter-relationship, between major and minor political powers, between Mainland and Mediterranean ecosystems, between advanced industrial and agricultural economies, between modernized (international) and traditional (local) cultures is reflected in the Corsican condition and is a prevalent dualism throughout the existing multi-regional Europe.

TRANS-DISCIPLINES

Restoring the relationship amongst art, architecture, philosophy and science may bring forth new relationships between ecology and technology. New visions and critiques are required for a desirable equilibrium that escapes the homogeneous technological model to date, and that adapts to the historical, social, morphological idiosyncrasies of Europe's continental-scale cultural

ecology.

Thus the organization of this Forum parallels with the crossing of boundaries and universality demanded by the notion of ecology. By attracting individuals from diverse



fields and locations, the Forum is modeled to disregard the division of geography, discipline, language and format, creating a universal dialogue from the multiplicity of boundaries. Taking place in a marginal location of Europe and attracting participants from central locations internationally, the Forum is structured in the spirit of the dissolution of margins and centers.

and additional discussions

PRESENTATIONS

THEORETICAL-ECOLOGY: CHAOSMOSIS

At the base of a global and ecological approach lies the issue of coming to terms with the western history of colonization, the annihilation of differing cultures, the exploitation of natural resources and the specialization of human potential leading to collective destruction. Ecological practice brings the reading of the world as a surface of affections, and untangling human potential from rigid roots into fluid strategies.

BUILDING-ECOLOGY

Throughout the history of dwellings, people built their own houses on a small scale and at a reduced pace while using materials and methods that were historically proven



effective and biologically healthy. Presentation of methods of building with non-toxic and renewable building materials.

RETROTECH-ECOLOGY

An examination of small scale devices that have been neglected by modern techniques, or the exploration of new methodologies applied to completely traditional and ancient materials. Methodologies that are neither low tech nor high tech, but that simply reconnect an expanded potential of materials into our current needs. An example of this kind is the Revival Field project by Mel Chin, a sculptural installation of hyper-accumulating plants that absorb toxic and metal waste from soil.

TECHNO-ECOLOGY: ENERGIES AND MAGNETISM

A presentation of the perils of electropollution and the promise of electromedicine, the parameters and the extremes of energy management, and recent ideas about electromagnetic fields and their effects and uses.

SYNTHETIC-ECOLOGY: NEW QUALITIES OF THE ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT

A presentation on the expanded notion of ecology that amplified into the realm of the culture, design, and the built environment.

FUTURE-ECOLOGY: MOLECULAR ASSEMBLYING

The analysis of Nanotechnology, the shrinking of machines to the atomic level, from the Foresight Institute at Palo Alto in the U.S.

and more presentations



1 The lagoon of Biglia

2 View of port of Bastia

3 Church of St. Martin in Patrimonio

4 Village of Vico

5 Talonato mountain west of d'Albaccare

6 The port and the citadel of Bonifacio

7 'Pearl', a kinetic living unit for two people, by Jan Kaplicky and David Nixon, 1996

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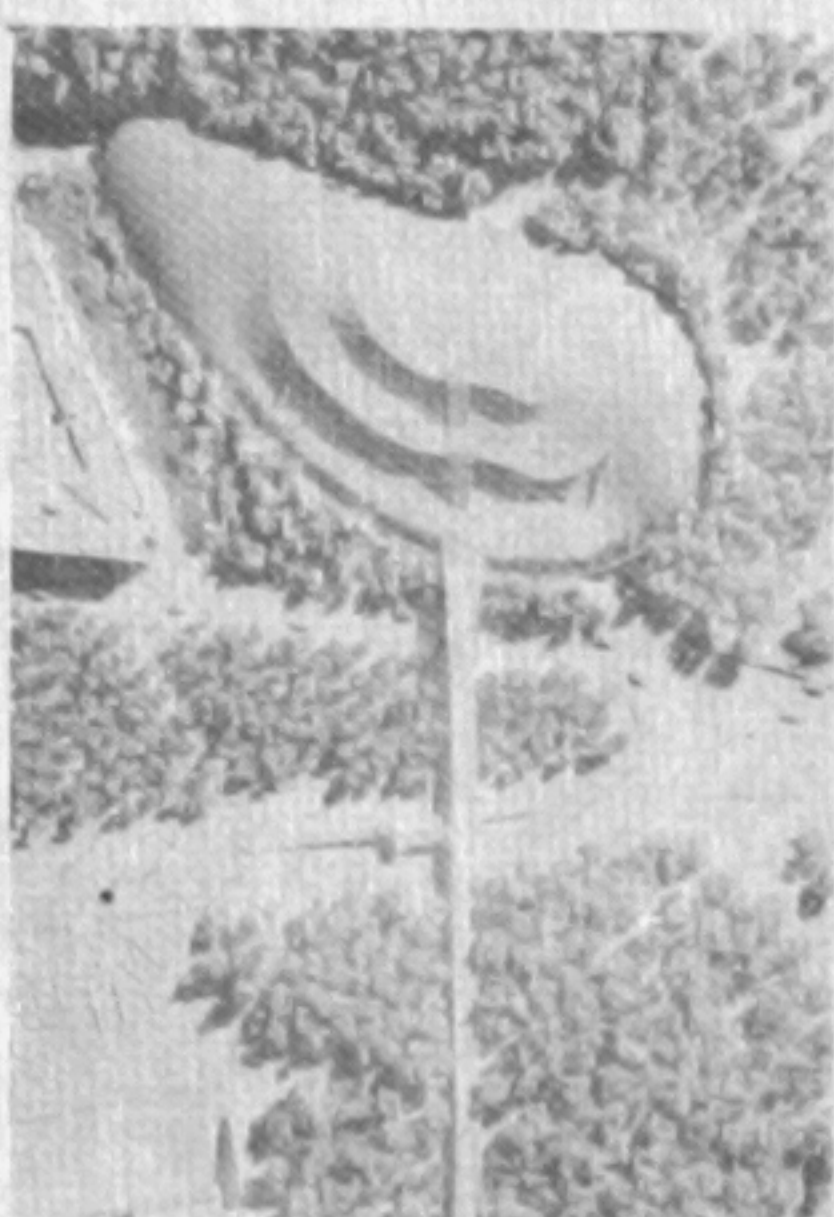
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LECTURES

by Future Systems

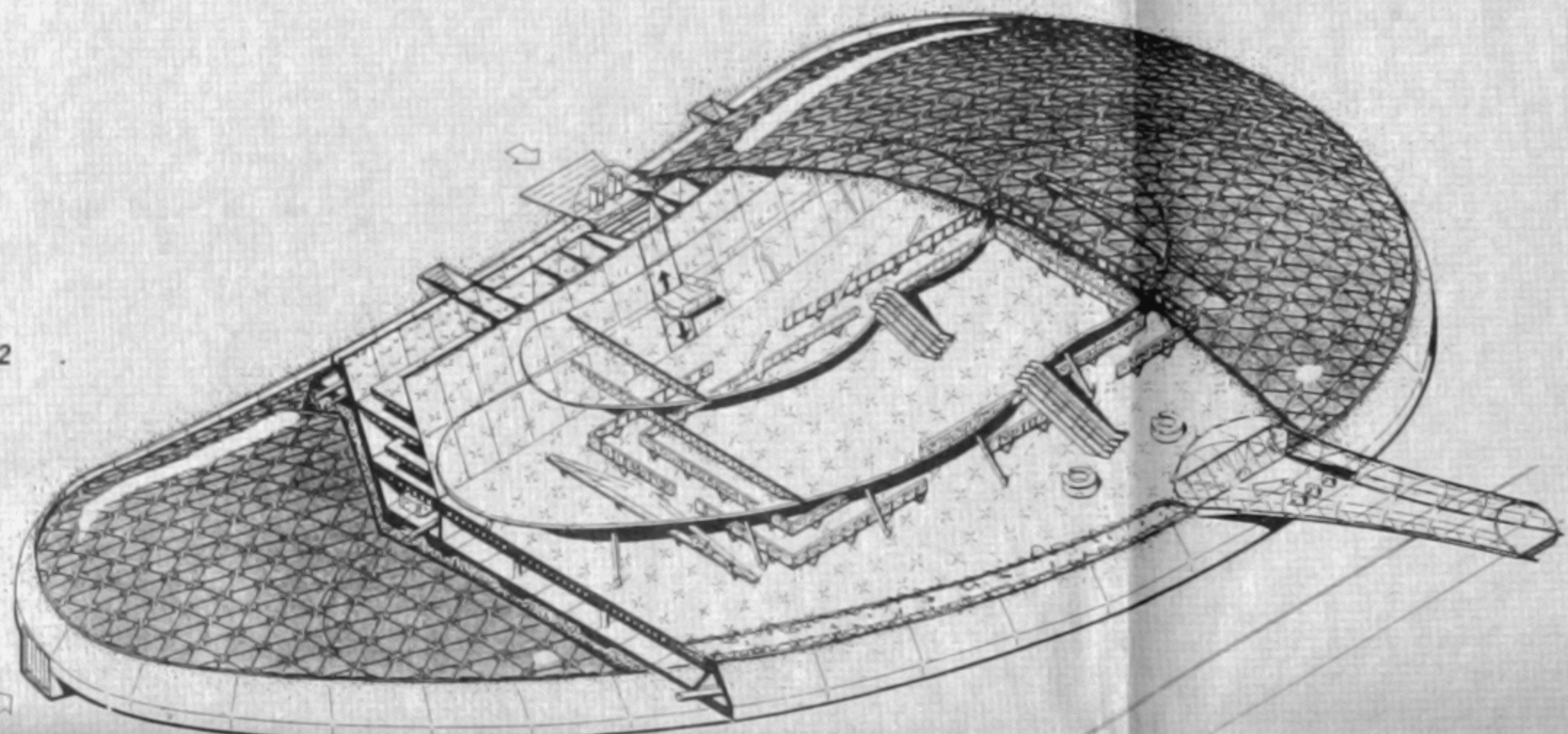
Tuesday, April 28, 6:30pm

Harvard University
Graduate School of Architecture
Lecture Hall
48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA
Free Admission

Thursday, April 30, 6pm

Pratt Institute, School of Architecture
61 St James Place (corner of Lafayette)
Brooklyn, New York
Free Admission

FUTURE SYSTEMS



1987 PARIS BRIDGE
1988 SPIRE
BIBLIOTHEQUE DE FRANCE
1989 DROP
GOSFIELD STREET
NASA WARDROOM TABLE
SHELTER
1990 ACROPOLIS MUSEUM
CHISWICK PARK ENTRANCE
GREEN BUILDING
IVY TROLLEY
KINGS CROSS
1991 AS HOUSE
CARAVAN
FRANKFURT KINDERGARTEN
MOMI TENT

Ove Arup Associates were the engineers for all of the above projects except Spire, Ivy Trolley and Caravan.

This exhibition is partly supported by The British Council

SPECIAL EVENT

Prima Facie and relevant works

lecture

John Randolph and Bruce Tomb
May 8, Friday
6:30pm

John Randolph and Bruce Tomb, partners of Interim Office of Architecture (IOOA) in San Francisco, will present their recent projects on collaboration between sculpture and architecture. IOOA was established in 1984 to investigate the relationship between artifact and its context.



1, 2
New Acropolis Museum, 1990

3
'Drop', a minimum, self sufficient, short stay unit for two people, model, 1989

4
'Caravan', a project to re-examine the role of the caravan in contemporary Australian culture, model, 1991

5, 6
'Blob', a proposal for the National Gallery Extension, London, by Jan Kaplicky and David Nixon, 1986



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STOREFRONT Art and Architecture

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